

PORABLE VIDEO SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/438,724, filed on May 15, 2003, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

10 This application is also a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/668,611, filed on October 17, 2003, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/438,724, filed on May 15, 2003. The disclosure of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/668,611 is incorporated herein in its 15 entirety by reference.

 This application is also a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/699,334, filed on October 31, 2003, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 20 10/438,724, filed on May 15, 2003. The disclosure of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/699,334 is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

 This application is also a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. 25 Application Serial No. 10/749,443, filed on December 31, 2003,

which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/438,724, filed on May 15, 2003. The disclosure of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/749,443 is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field:

The present invention relates to a video system, and more particularly to a portable video system capable of being secured 10 to a docking station.

2. Discussion of Related Art:

As society becomes more mobile and therefore spends a greater amount of time traveling and away from home, demand 15 rises for electronic appliances and devices outside the home environment. For example, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, video screens 101 have been mounted in the headrests 102 of vehicles, facilitating video entertainment on the road. These video screens are connected to video players located, for example, in 20 the glove box of the vehicle. However, the video player and video screen cannot be removed from the vehicle. Thus, videos may only be viewed with such systems when occupying the vehicle, and only from particular vantage points within the vehicle. Further, there is also a risk of theft of the video screen and

video player and corresponding damage to the vehicle when the vehicle is unattended.

Therefore, a need exists for a portable video system capable of being mounted to a docking station.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a docking station for supporting a removable video system, includes a connector for electrically coupling the docking station to the removable video system, and at least one port for connecting a media source to the docking station, wherein data from the media source is provided to the docking station via the at least one port and to the removable video system via the connector.

The at least one port may be one of a universal serial bus port, an audio input port, a video input port and an audio/video input port. The data may include at least one of audio data and video data. The media source may be one of an MPEG player, a card reader, a DVD player, a CD-ROM player, a video game player, a videocassette player, and a digital video recorder. The docking station may receive a media storage medium and data from the media storage medium is provided to the removable video system via the connector. The docking station may receive the media storage medium through a slot positioned in the docking

station. The media storage medium may be at least one of a digital video disc, a compact disc, a video compact disc, a flash card, a secure digital card, a smart media card and a memory stick card. The docking station may also include a 5 television tuner, wherein a program received by the television tuner is provided to the removable video system via the connector.

The docking station may be mounted in an interior portion of a vehicle to the ceiling, wall or seat of the vehicle. The 10 docking station may also be mounted to a ceiling, a wall or a piece of furniture in a room. The docking station may also be free standing. The docking station may include a stationary portion and a swinging portion attached to the stationary portion, wherein the removable video system is secured to the 15 swinging portion. The docking station may also include a light positioned on the docking station and a speaker positioned on the docking station. The docking station may be connectable to a battery and may include a port for connecting to an adapter for a power supply.

20 The removable video system may include a display capable of displaying video data received from the docking station. The display may be one of a liquid crystal display device, a cathode ray tube device, a gas plasma device or an organic electro-luminescent display device. The removable video system may

include at least one port for connecting a media source to the video system, wherein data from the media source is provided to the video system via the at least one port. The removable video system may include a media player, wherein the media player is
5 capable of playing media stored on at least one of a digital video disc, a compact disc, a video compact disc, a flash card, a secure digital card, a smart media card and a memory stick card.

The removable video system may be capable of operating when
10 remote from the docking station, wherein the removable video system is capable of connecting to at least one of a battery and an adapter for a power supply.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a video system attachable to a docking station includes a display
15 capable of displaying video data received from the docking station, and a media player, wherein the video system is capable of operating when removed from the docking station.

The video system may be capable of connecting to at least one of a battery and an adapter for a power supply. The media
20 player may be capable of playing media stored on at least one of a digital video disc, a compact disc, a video compact disc, a flash card, a secure digital card, a smart media card and a memory stick card.

The video system may also include at least one port for connecting a media source to the video system, wherein data from the media source is provided to the video system via the at least one port. The data may include at least one of audio data and video data. The at least one port may be one of a universal serial bus port, an audio input port, a video input port and an audio/video input port. The media source may be one of an MPEG player, a card reader, a DVD player, a CD-ROM player, a video game player, a videocassette player, and a digital video recorder. The video system may also include a television tuner, wherein a program received by the television tuner is broadcast on the video system.

The docking station may be mounted in a room or in an interior portion of a vehicle. The docking station may be mounted to a structure or be free standing.

The display may be one of a liquid crystal display device, a cathode ray tube device, a gas plasma device or an organic electro-luminescent display device.

The docking station may receive the video data from one of a media source built in to the docking station or an external media source connected to the docking station.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described below in more detail, with reference to the accompanying drawings:

5 Figure 1 is an illustration of a video screen installed in a vehicle headrest;

Figure 2 is an illustration of a video screen installed in a vehicle headrest;

10 Figure 3A is an illustration of a side view of a video system and docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3B is an illustration of a side view of a video system and docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

15 Figure 3C is an illustration of a side view of an undocking stationed video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3D is an illustration of a side view of a video system according to an embodiment of the present invention

20 Figures 4A and 4B are illustrations of a docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5A is an illustration of a front view of a clamshell-type video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5B is an illustration of a top view of a clamshell-type video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5C is an illustration of a side view of a clamshell-type video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5D is an illustration of a front view of a clamshell-type video system in an open position according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6A is an illustration of a docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6B is an illustration of a rear view of a video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 7A and 7B are illustrations of mechanisms for coupling a video system and a docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 8 is an illustration of a video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 9 is an illustration of a docking station cover according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 10 is a diagram of a system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 11A and 11B are illustrations of a video system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 12A-12C are illustrations of a video system and an overhead docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 13A-13B are illustrations of a video system and a
5 tabletop docking station according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 14 is an illustration of a video system according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 15 shows illustrations of a video system and a
10 battery pack according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a
15 portable video system can be coupled to a vehicle headrest. The portable video system receives a data media comprising data to be displayed. The video system is secured to a docking station mounted in the headrest. The video system is removable, such that the video system can be disconnected from the docking
20 station.

Referring to Figure 3A, the portable video system can be embodied as a slot-type video system 301 comprising a slot 302 that receives a data media into a mechanism for accessing data stored on the medium, such as a digital videodisk (DVD) player,

MPEG player 3 (MP3) disk, or video game disk. The video system 301 is secured to a docking station 303. The video system 301 comprises a hinge 304. The hinge connects a video screen portion of the video system to a base portion of the video system.

As shown in Figure 3B, the docking station 303 is secured in the headrest 102, and more particularly to an internal headrest support structure 305. The docking station 303 can be secured by, for example, a catch 401 as shown in Figure 4A and/or a screw 402 as shown in Figure 4B. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that other means of securing the docking station can be used, for example, an adhesive compound.

The docking station 303 secures a base portion of the video system 301, and allows a video screen portion 306 to pivot away from the base portion. In a slot-type device, as shown in Figure 3B, the slot 302 is exposed for receiving a data media when the video screen portion 306 is in a pivoted position away from the base portion of the video system 301.

As shown in Figure 3C, the video system 301 can be disconnected from the docking station 303 (cut away view). The video system 301 can be operated autonomously. That is, when decoupled from the docking station 303, the video system 301 can access a data media to play, for example, a movie. When disconnected from the docking station, the video system can

operate on power supplied by an optional battery or a connection to an external power supply, such as an AC or DC current. The connection can be to the base portion 307 of the video system 301.

5 Referring to Figure 3D, a headrest 308 can comprise an opening 309 for receiving a data media into the video system 301. The video system 301 can be a permanently installed or portable video system. The headrest opening 309 aligns with the slot 302 of the video system 301 to allow data media, such as a
10 DVD or MP3 disk to be inserted from the side, top, or bottom of the headrest 308. The headrest 308 further comprises vents 310 for dissipating heat. A cooling fan 311 for increasing airflow can also be added within the headrest. The cooling fan 311 can be located in the headrest 308 and behind the vent 310, such
15 that the cooling fan 311 is concealed.

Referring to Figures 5A through 5D, a portable video system 501 of a clamshell-type is secured to a docking station. The portable video system 501 comprises a door 502 and a base portion 503 connected by a hinge 504. The door 502 pivots away
20 from the base portion 503 on the hinge 504. The hinge 504 can be positioned on any side of the door 502. The door 502 comprises a video screen 505, controls 506A, and an infrared (IR) transmitter and/or receiver 507. The video system 501 receives a data media 508 comprising data to be accessed. When

the door 502 is closed the data media 505 is secured. The door 502 can be opened by, for example, depressing a button releasing the door 503 from the base portion 503 or pulling the door 502 away from the base 503 wherein the hinge 504 is a friction fitting. A media player 509 is concealed by cover 510. The cover 510 can be opened by, for example, depressing a button 511. The video system 501 is removable, such that the video system can be disconnected from the docking station 303.

The base 503 comprises a control panel 506B. The control panel 506B comprises a plurality of controls for controlling the functions of the media player, for example, volume control, previous, next, pause, eject and play, and a power on/off button. The controls 506A and 506B can be, for example, buttons, switches, a touch sensitive liquid crystal display, and the like.

Referring now to Figures 6A and 6B, the docking station 303 comprises a pin array 601 for connecting to a pin array 602 of a video system 603. The video system 603 can be a slot-type device, a clamshell-type device, or any other device that is capable of being secured in the docking station 303. When the video system 603 is secured to the docking station 303, the pin array 601 and video system pin array 602 transfer data to and from the video player 603. Thus, the video player can be connected to external devices through the docking station 303.

The external devices include, for example, a slave video display unit installed in another headrest, a security system, and a vehicle sound system. Where the video system 603 is permanently installed in the headrest, the docking station can be omitted, 5 and a connection to the vehicle's power supply and/or data bus can be directly coupled to the video system 603 through, for example, an electrical harness.

The docking station 303 is coupled to a vehicle's electrical system. The docking station 303 is connected to a 10 vehicle's power supply, e.g., 12 Volts, through a wiring harness. Power can be supplied to the video system 603 through the pin arrays 601 and 602. The docking station 303 can be connected to a vehicle's data communication bus. The data communications bus can carry data to and from the external 15 devices.

Referring to Figure 7A, the docking station 303 comprises a quick release mechanism for securing and releasing the video system 701. The quick release mechanism can include a button 702 for releasing a latch 703, which is secured to the video 20 system 701 by pressing the video system 701 securely into the docking station 303. A latch mechanism comprises a latch 703 that passes into a bottom portion of the video system 701. The latch 703 is momentarily displaced as the video system 701 is coupled with the docking station 303. A spring 704 secures the

latch 703 in the bottom portion of the video system 701. The button 702 can be pressed, aligning the latch 703 with an opening in the bottom portion of the video system 701, and the video system 701 can be pulled away from the docking station 5 303. As shown in Figure 7B, a rear portion 705 of the video system 701 can be secured by a convex portion 706 that fits within a concave portion 707 in the docking station 303. As the video system 701 is pressed into the docking station 303, a wall of the docking station 708 flexes away from the rear portion of 10 the video player until the convex portion 706 is aligned with the concave portion 707. The convex portion 706 and the concave portion 707 cooperate to secure the video system 701 to the docking station 303. Thus, a wall of the docking station 708 can be formed of, for example, a flexible thermoplastic rubber.

15 Other means of securing the video system 701 to the docking station 303 are contemplated, such as, snaps, locks, latches, and the like.

Referring to Figure 8, the video system 801 comprises input and output ports. For example, audio/video input/output ports 20 802, a headphone port 803, and a power port 804. It should be understood that other port types can be provided, for example, a USB port or RCA jack for connecting to a game controller. Further, the video system 801 comprises a wireless transmitter for transmitting, for example, an audio radio frequency,

Bluetooth®, or Whitefire® signal to wireless headphones. The video system 801 further comprises an infrared (IR) port 805 for transmitting and/or receiving, for example, remote control signals. The ports can be positioned at any convenient location 5 on the video system 801, for example, on a bottom portion of the base of the video system, a front portion of the base of the video system, or a side portion.

When the video system is removed from the docking station 303, a cover 901 can conceal a portion of the docking station, 10 as shown in Figure 9. The cover 901 is manufactured from a material such as, plastic, wood, leather, and/or aluminum. The cover 901 can be secured by the same mechanisms as the video system, such as those shown in Figure 7A and 7B. Thus, the cover 901 and the video player can have one or more features in 15 common, such as openings for receiving latches and the like.

It is to be appreciated that a portable video system according to the present invention is easily removable from and can be operated outside of a vehicle, for example, in home or office environments. Further, the video system can be 20 permanently connected to the headrest support structure by, for example, screws, catches, and adhesives.

Referring now to Figure 10, a video system 1001 and a video slave unit 1002 are connected to a power supply 1003. The video slave unit receives data to be displayed from the video system

1001 through a data bus 1004. The data bus 1004 can be connected to other devices 1005, such as a vehicle's sound system or a vehicle's navigation system. The connections between the video system 1001 and the external device 1005 can 5 be a wireless connection (not shown). Similarly, the connection between the video system 1001 and the video system slave device 1002 can be a wireless connection (not shown).

While the video system has been described in terms of a clamshell-type device and a slot-type device, the video system 10 can be embodied in other configurations, for example, as a draw-type device comprising a draw and a spindle for securing the data media in place. Another example of a video system according to an embodiment of the present invention is a tablet-type device comprising a swivel-hinge connecting a video screen 15 to a base portion as shown in Figures 11A and 11B. The swivel-hinge 1101 allows a door 1102 comprising a screen to move about two axes such that the screen 1102 can be swiveled about the swivel-hinge 1001 while in an open position, pivoted away from the base 1103. The screen can be turned to face the base 20 portion 1103 when in a fully closed position (e.g., Figure 11B) or turned to face away from the base portion 1103 in a closed viewing position (e.g., 11A). In both the fully closed position and the closed viewing position, the door 1102 is substantially

parallel to the base portion 1103. The swivel-hinge 1101 can be implemented in a slot-type device or a clamshell-type device.

Referring to Figures 12A-12C, an entertainment system 1200 includes a docking station 1203 and video system 1201 mounted to 5 the docking station 1203. The docking station 1203 is preferably mounted in a vehicle to the vehicle ceiling 1250 and includes stationary and swinging portions 1207 and 1209. The docking station 1203 also may be mounted in another portion of a vehicle, such as to a wall or to a seat in the vehicle. In 10 addition, the docking station 1203 can be mounted outside of a vehicle, such as under a kitchen cabinet or to a wall or ceiling in a home or office. The docking station includes holes 1208 and 1210 in the stationary portion 1207 through which screws 402 pass into a surface to which the docking station 1203 is 15 mounted. The docking station 1203 may be mounted to a surface using clips 401, screws 402, brackets, adhesive, nails, rivets or any suitable mounting mechanism known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The docking station 1203 includes lights 1212 which can be 20 turned on or off by user or wired to operate like standard overhead lighting when the docking station 1203 is mounted in a vehicle, such that the lights can be switched on or off and turn on automatically when a door of the vehicle is ajar. The function of the lights 1212 is controlled with a switch 1216.

The video system 1201 mounts to the swinging portion 1209 of the docking station 1203 using, for example, a quick release mechanism or concave/convex portions the same or similar to those described in connection with Figures 7A and 7B. Other 5 means of securing the video system 1201 in the docking station 1203 are contemplated, such as, snaps, locks, latches, and the like. Referring to Figures 6A and 6B, an electrical connection between the video system 1201 and the docking station 1203 is provided through pin arrays 601 and 602. A pin array 602 of the 10 video system 1201 is located on a rear portion of the video system housing. Data to and from the video system 1201, such as video and audio signals, is transferred through the pin arrays 601 and 602. Further, power from the vehicle can be transmitted to the video system 1201 through the pin arrays 601 and 602. An 15 electrical connection between the video system 1201 and the docking station 1203 may be provided through connectors other than pin arrays known to those of skill in the art for transferring audio and video signals and power.

The swinging portion 1209 is coupled to the stationary 20 portion 1209 with a hinge mechanism 1213 that allows the swinging portion 1209 to rotate about a horizontal axis between the stationary and swinging portions 1207 and 1209. The hinge mechanism 1213 allows the swinging portion 1209 to rotate approximately 180° and to lock in different positions at desired

viewing angles of the screen 1220 of the video system 1201.

Alternatively, a hinge mechanism allowing a more limited range of motion, for example, from about 0° to 90° may be used.

As shown in Figure 12B, the swinging portion 1209 closes 5 against the stationary portion 1207 so as to conceal the video system 1201 and occupy less space when not in use. The swinging portion 1207 preferably locks in place with a latch mechanism that can be released by depressing a button 1214.

The video system 1201 has the capability of playing video 10 programs received through the docking station 1203. For example, the docking station 1203 includes a TV tuner that receives television signals for broadcast by a video system mounted therein. A channel display 1260 and channel selector buttons 1261 for selecting a television channel are positioned 15 on a side panel the docking station 1203, but may be positioned on other convenient portions of the docking station 1203. Additionally, the docking station may include a radio tuner (not shown) .

The docking station 1203 also includes ports for connecting 20 to external media devices, such as a universal serial bus (USB) port 1262 and input/output ports 1263. The ports 1262 and 1263 are used to connect devices, such as an MPEG player, a card reader, a DVD player, a CD-ROM player, a video game player, a videocassette player, and a digital video recorder. For

example, audio input ports include XLR and RCA jacks and video input ports include S-video connections, RCA connections, F-connections, and component video. The input/output ports 1263 also can include, for example, a headphone port and a power

5 port.

The docking station 1203 includes slots 1264 and 1265 of different sizes for receiving DVDs, CDs, flash cards, secure digital (SD) cards, smart media (SM) cards and memory stick (MS) cards. Accordingly, the docking station 1203 is capable of

10 reading various types of media storage mediums and transferring audio and video data from the media storage medium to a video system 1201 connected thereto for broadcast on the video system 1201. As an alternative to using slots, media storage mediums can also be inserted into the docking station using a clamshell

15 type design. In addition, a drawer type design may also be implemented whereby a holder for a media storage medium slides out of the docking station (like a drawer) to permit insertion of a media storage device in the holder.

The docking station 1203 also includes a control switch

20 1218 for turning a display 1220 of the video system 1201 on and off and selector buttons 1219 for selecting a program from a desired media source for display. For example, a user may depress the selector buttons 1219 to select a program from an MPEG player to be displayed on the video system 1201.

Referring to Figures 13A-13B, a video system 1201 is connected to a tabletop docking station 1303. The docking station 1303 is free standing and may be placed on a desk, table or counter, for example. Like the connection to the docking station 1203, a quick release mechanism or concave/convex portions the same or similar to those described in connection with Figures 7A and 7B or other means, such as snaps, locks, latches, and the like, can be used to secure the video system 1201 to the docking station 1303. Also, an electrical connection between the video system 1201 and the docking station 10 1303 for providing data and power between the docking station 1203 and the video system 1201 is provided through pin arrays 601 and 602 located on the docking station 1303 and the video system 1201, respectively. An electrical connection between the 15 video system 1201 and the docking station 1303 may be provided through connectors other than pin arrays known to those of skill in the art for transferring audio and video signals and power.

Like the docking station 1203, the docking station 1303 includes a USB port 1362 and various input/output ports 1363 for 20 connecting to outside media devices, headphones and/or a power supply. For example, the docking station 1303 includes a power port for connecting to a power supply through an AC/DC adapter. The docking station 1303 also may connect to a battery pack (not shown) similar to the battery pack 1501 shown in Figure 15 for

powering the docking station 1303 and a video system 1201 connected thereto.

The docking station 1303 includes slots 1364 and 1365 of different sizes for receiving media storage mediums such as 5 DVDs, CDs, flash cards, secure digital (SD) cards, smart media (SM) cards and memory stick (MS) cards. Like the docking station 1203, clamshell and drawer type designs also may be used for insertion of media storage mediums in the docking station.

The docking station 1303 is capable of reading various types of 10 media storage mediums and transferring audio and video data from the media storage medium to a video system 1201 connected thereto for broadcast on the video system 1201. The ports 1362, 1363 and slots 1364, 1365 can be located on the front, side or rear of the docking station 1303.

15 The docking station 1303 also includes speakers 1312 for broadcasting audio programs or audio associated with a video program. Like the docking station 1203, the docking station 1303 may include TV and radio tuners, a control switch 1318 for turning a display 1220 of the video system 1201 on and off and 20 selector buttons 1319 for selecting a program from a desired media source for display. For example, a user may depress the selector buttons 1319 to select a program from an MPEG player to be displayed on the video system 1201.

Referring to Figure 14, a video system 1201 capable of being connected to a docking station 1203/1303 is shown. The video system 1201 includes a display 1220, which is preferably a liquid crystal display (LCD). Alternatively, the display 1220 5 can be a cathode ray tube (CRT), gas plasma or organic electroluminescent display (OELD) device. The size of the display is approximately 7 inches to approximately 12 inches.

Like the docking stations 1203/1303, the video system includes ports for external media players, headphones or power 10 and slots for receiving media storage mediums. For example, the video system 1201 includes a USB port 1282 and input/output ports 1283. A control switch 1287 is set to IN or OUT controlling whether the ports are input or output ports. For example, if the control switch is set to IN, a device, such as a 15 portable DVD player, can be connected to the video system 1201 via audio and video IN ports to allow for display of a video program from the portable DVD player on the video system 1201.

The video system 1201 includes a power port for connecting to a power supply through an AC/DC adapter. Further, as shown 20 in Figure 15, the video system 1201 also may connect to a battery pack 1501 for powering the video system 1201. The connection between the video system 1201 and the battery pack 1501 is provided through respective pin arrays 1295 and 1595 located on the video system 1201 and battery pack 1501. The

position of the pin array 1295 on the video system 1201 may vary depending on the number and location of ports and slots incorporated into the video system 1201. Connectors other than pin arrays known to those skilled in the art may also be used.

5 The slots 1284 and 1285 are different sizes for receiving a variety of media storage mediums such as DVDs, CDs, video CDs (VCDs), flash cards, secure digital (SD) cards, smart media (SM) cards and memory stick (MS) cards. Like the docking stations 1203/1303, clamshell and drawer type designs also may be used
10 for insertion of media storage mediums in the video system 1201. The video system 1201 is capable of reading the various types of media storage mediums inserted therein for broadcast on the video system 1201. The ports 1282, 1283 and slots 1284, 1285 can be located on the front, side or rear of the video system
15 1201.

 The video system 1201 is capable of operating independent of the docking stations 1203/1303, relying on power supplied through a connection to a standard power supply (e.g., an adapter connected to a household outlet) or through the battery pack 1501. Media players, such as a DVD player, are built into the video system 1201 or can connect to the video system 1201 via the ports 1282 and 1283.

 When connected to a docking station 1203/1303, the video system 1201 is capable of receiving video and audio programs

through the docking station 1203/1303 from media players connected to the docking station 1203/1303. Alternatively, the video system 1201 can broadcast video programs received from media players built into the video system 1201 or directly 5 connected to the video system 1201 via ports 1282 and 1283. It should also be understood that a video display device, not having any media sources built into the video display device or connected thereto, can be connected to the docking station 1203/1303 and receive the video programs for broadcast through 10 media players connected to the docking station 1203/1303.

The video system 1201 includes speakers 1232 for broadcasting audio programs or audio associated with a video program. Like the docking stations 1203/1303, the video system 1201 may include TV and radio tuners. The video system 1201 15 includes a variety of control buttons 1290 controlling power, source, screen mode, picture selection and functions of a media source, such as stop, pause, previous, play and next. The control buttons 1290 enable a user to control display characteristics and which programs from which sources are 20 displayed. Additional control buttons can include volume control and channel selection.

Having described embodiments for a portable video system capable of being mounted in a vehicle, it is noted that modifications and variations can be made by persons skilled in

the art in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that changes may be made in the particular embodiments of the invention disclosed which are within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined by the appended claims. Having thus described the invention with the details and particularity required by the patent laws, what is claimed and desired protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.